

English translation of pages 2-3 of the German office action issued in the German counterpart application of US Application No. 10/597,937

- (1) DE 10 2004 031 190 A1
- (2) DE 10 2004 031 189 A1
- (3) DE 10 2004 031 188 A1
- (4) DE 34 43 789 A1
- (5) DE 24 46 658 A1
- (6) DE 35 86 372 T2
- (7) JP 2003045228 AA (with EPODOC and WPI abstracts)
- (8) JP 2000290617 AA (with EPODOC and WPI abstracts)
- (9) JP 2000192000 AA (with EPODOC and WPI abstracts)
- (10) JP 09053001 AA (with EPODOC and WPI abstracts)

The examination (national phase PCT) is based on the papers submitted on the application date with the then applicable patent claims 1 through 12 (submitted on 3/22/2006, date of receipt at the DPMA [German Patent and Trademark Office] 8/16/2006). Hope cannot be held out for the granting of a patent with respect to the applicable subject matter of the application due to lack of novelty.

1. With respect to the original disclosure, the documentation of the changes which result in the applicable wording of the claims is missing.

2. With respect to the wording of the claims it must be noted that in the opinion of the examining office the quantity data and the definition of the components are expressed in an unnecessarily elaborate manner with redundant formulations (e.g. in particular claims 1 and 10; also e.g. impermissible explanations in parentheses in Claim 1). In addition, in the entire wording of the claims, indefinite references ("as primary component/resin component thereof," "said") must be criticized. Claim 2 is unclear with respect to the term "coupling means" without "selected from" and thus cannot be granted. Claim 5 is formulated so as to refer to the problem without providing a solution thereof (function to accelerate the thermosetting; "... quantity selected such that ...") and thus cannot be granted. Claims 6 and 7 have unclear syntax and therefore are not grantable. Claim 9 is impermissible because it is self-contradictory and does not represent an embodiment of Claim 1 (alternative silver powder identical to Claim 1).

3. Conductive adhesive composites based on epoxy resin according to claims 1, 3, 4 as well as 8 and 10 through 12 have already been described in all features in publications (1) through (10) independent of each other with prejudicial effect on novelty (cf. (1), sections [0016]-[0035] in combination with [0043]; cf. (2), sections [0017]-[0035] in combination with [0041]; cf. (3), sections [0016]-[0034] in combination with [0042];

cf. (4), page 9, line 22 through page 20, line 24; cf. (5), page 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> para. – page 7, end of 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph; cf. (6), page 1. lines 1-6 in combination with page 2, line 15 – page 6, line 20; cf. (7) – (10), in each case separate abstracts). Claims 1, 3, 4 as well as 8 and 10 through 12 thus cannot be granted.

4. Hope cannot be held out for the granting of the patent. Instead a rejection of the application must be expected. In the event a comment on the matter is not intended, we request an informal notification concerning receipt of the notice.

Examination Office for Class C09J

[signature]

Dr. Deeg

Tel. Extension 4763

Attachments:

Photocopy of 10 citations

3872276

061307